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V. Brown

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : PERERA
Serial No : 08/701,739
Filed : August 22, 1996
For : ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR
Art Unit : 3202
Examiner : D. Ta
Dated : May 8, 1997

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT UNDER 35 USC §121

GROUP 3200

Sirs,

In response to the requirement under 35 USC §121, Applicant hereby elects invention I with claims 1 - 19, 22 and 23 drawn to an electrical connector.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction.

The Examiner's reasons for the restriction is that the method can be used to make other and materially different products. In particular with regard method II (B) the Examiner states that this method can be used to make a device which can provide good gripping force to a non-conductive cable. Applicant notes that claim 21 does not set forth making a device, but instead sets forth a method of making a connection. Therefore it is quite clear that claim 21 does not set forth an invention that makes a device, especially a device which can provide a gripping force to a non-conductive

cable. Instead claim 21 sets forth how to manipulate provided structure to make a connection. Claim 21 is therefore not distinct from invention I because claim 21 cannot be used to make a device which can provide good gripping force to a non-conductive cable.

Claim 21 sets forth a method of making an electrical connection to an insulated electrical conductor. In reviewing the Examiner's reasons for the restriction, Applicant feels that perhaps the Examiner felt that claim 21 was a distinct invention because the Examiner felt that the method of claim 21 could provide a good gripping force to a non-conductive cable. Applicant notes that method claim 21 clearly sets forth the step of inserting an electrical conductor into the recess of the body and displacing contact means to penetrate the insulation and make electrical contact with the electrical conductor. Applicant also notes that if the Examiner is interpreting method claim 21 as being applicable to non-conductive cable, the apparatus claims 1 - 19, 22 and 23 would also be applicable to non-conductive cable. In fact independent apparatus claim 1 does not even specifically set forth an electrically conductive cable but instead sets forth a recess for receiving an electrical conductor and means for reacting to an electrical conductor. The interpretation process used to apply claim 21 to non-conductive cable can be much easier applied to claim 1 to use non-conductive cable.

Therefore if claim 21 is applied to non-conductive cable, claim 1 can also be applied to non-conductive cable, and the use of non-conductive cable in claim 21 therefore does not make claims 1 and 21 distinct inventions. Since both can similarly

be applied to non-conductive cable, a single search would be beneficial for considering the inventions as stated by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction with regard to claim 21 be removed.

It appears that the Examiner's reasons for restricting claim 20 is that the method of claim 20 can be used to make threads for any threaded connection.

Claim 20 sets forth advancing a cutting tool into the body to cause teeth on the forward portion to cut a circular recess. Claim 20 then sets forth moving the cutting tool sideways to elongate the circular recess and to have the teeth on the following portion of the cutting tool form protrusions. These protrusions are not threads for a thread connection. Threads for a threaded connection are spiral and progress in an axial direction. The protrusions caused by moving the cutting tool sideways, will not form spiral ridges or threads, and cannot be used for a threaded connection. The protrusions caused by claim 20 do not progress axially, and instead progress radially or circumferentially.

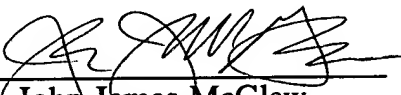
The method of claim 20 therefore cannot be used to make threads for any threaded connection, and the method of claim 20 therefore overcomes the Examiner's reasons for restriction. It is Applicant's position that the close relationship between the method of claim 20, and the apparatus set forth in claim 1, is so close that the method is not useful for a materially different product. Any product produced by the method would be similar to the product claimed. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the restriction be removed and feels that a single search would be

beneficial for considering the invention as stated by the Examiner.

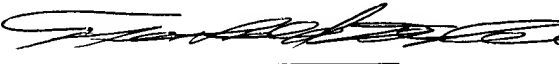
At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and solicits allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions, comments or suggestions which would further favor prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, NO.: EM586131185US

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BY: _____ DATE: May 9, 1997